

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3-8, 10-13, 15-18, and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by PCT Application No. WO 91/01606 to Geshwind (hereinafter “the ‘606 patent”); and Claims 2, 9, 14, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over the ‘606 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,413 to Wolff (hereinafter “the ‘413 patent”).

Amended Claim 8 is directed to a method for faxing files received from a remote client, comprising: (1) sending a fax document form to a remote client over a network; (2) receiving, by a network fax machine, fax information entered on the fax document form from the remote client, the fax information including an identifier identifying a destination fax machine, and a file to be faxed to the destination fax machine; (3) connecting the network fax machine to the destination fax machine using the identifier; and (4) sending the file to the destination fax machine by a facsimile communication. Further, Claim 8 recites that the destination fax machine is located remotely from the remote client. Claim 8 has been amended to clarify that the remote client is not a facsimile machine. The changes to Claim 8 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

The ‘606 patent is directed to a method of incorporating a machine readable graphic, such as a bar code, into the cover sheet of a fax transmission in order to permit the automated routing of the transmission. Further, the ‘606 patent discloses the concept of “public fax

¹ See, e.g., Figure 2 and the discussion related thereto in the specification.

stations” in which faxes may be sent and received at the public fax station. As shown in Figure 1, the ‘606 patent discloses a cover sheet including a bar code and a return cover sheet portion having information fields to be manually filed in by a user when a return fax is sent back to the original sender. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the ‘606 patent fails to disclose the step of receiving, by a network fax machine, fax information entered on the fax document form from the remote client, the fax information including an identifier identifying a destination fax machine and a file to be faxed to the destination fax machine, wherein the remote client is not a facsimile machine, as recited in amended Claim 8. Rather, the ‘606 patent merely discloses that a fax machine may send a cover sheet including a return cover sheet to another fax machine. However, the ‘606 patent fails to disclose sending a fax document form to a remote client over a network, wherein the remote client is not a fax machine and then receiving, by a network fax machine, fax information entered on the fax document form from the remote client, wherein the remote client is not a facsimile machine, as recited in Claim 8. Moreover, it is unclear to Applicants now the ‘606 patent discloses the *destination fax machine* recited in Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants note that Claim 1 recites three machines: a network fax machine, a destination fax machine, and a remote client, while the ‘606 patent merely refers to a sending fax machine and a receiving fax machine. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claim 8 (and dependent Claims 9-12) is rendered moot by the present amendment to Claim 8.

Claims 1, 13, and 18 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 8. Moreover, Claims 1, 13, and 18 have been amended in a manner analogous to the amendment to Claim 8. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 8, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 1, 13, and 18 (and all similarly rejected dependent claims) are rendered moot by the present amendment to those claims.

Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 2, 9, 14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that the '413 patent fails to remedy the deficiencies of the '606 patent, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 2, 9, and 14 are rendered moot by the present amendment to the independent claims.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, 13, and 18 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '606 and '413 patents.

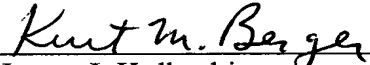
Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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